10.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I-ERM	Major	Ravi-Beas/Indus	3/93	32.60	121.92	B
11.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project-ERM	Major	--	1/01	400.433	745.59	B
12.	Narmada Canal Project	Major	Narmada	16/6/2004	151.072	1541.35	B
13.	Piplad Irrigation	Medium	Piplad/ Chambal	1/99	3/549	33.64	B
14.	Takli Irrigation cum Drinking Water Supply Project	Medium	Takli/Chambal	22.11.02	4.791	51.81	B
15.	Gagrin Irrigation Project	Medium	Ahu/Kali Sindh	--	9.675	80.12	B
16.	Lhasi Irrigation Project	Medium	Lhasi/Andheri/ Parwati/ Chambal	11.2005	5.755	44.73	B

A - Projects under various stages of appraisal.
B - Projects accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations.
ERM - Extension, Renovation and modernisation.
CCA - Cultural Command Area.

Arsenic content in ground water

†2404. SHRI SATYAVARAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the report of scientists of the School of Studies in Chemestry of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, arsenic content in the ground water of Ambagarh Chauki, Korba, Kanker, Dhamtari, Bastar and Durg (Bhillai) of Chhattisgarh has been found above the danger mark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that besides Chhattisgarh, arsenic content has also been found in excessive quantity in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to protect local people from the harmful effects of the arsenic content?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per information received from School of Studies in Chemistry, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, arsenic content in excess of maximum permissible limit of 0.05 mg/litre has been reported from Ambagarh Chauki and Kanker in Chhattisgarh. However, from Korba, Dhamtari, Bastar and Durg, no arsenic in ground water has been reported. Studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) have also revealed presence of high arsenic content in some villages of Ambagarh Chauki block of Rajnandgaon district.

(b) Besides Chhattisgarh, occurrence of high concentration of arsenic in ground water has been observed in West Bengal, in the depth zone of 20-80 m in the area east of river Bhagirathi in 79 blocks of 8 districts *viz.* Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Hoogli, Howrah and Bardhaman. In Bihar, parts of 12 districts have been reported as arsenic affected. The reportedly affect districts are Bhojpur, Buxar, Vaishali, Saran, Samastipur, Begusarai, Patna, Khagaria, Munger, Bhagalpur, Katihar and Darbhanga. In Uttar Pradesh, Ballia and Gonda districts have been reported as arsenic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

affected. There is no report of high arsenic content in ground water in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Arsenic contamination in ground water is caused due to natural mechanism by which arsenic present in the water bearing formations gets mobilized under reducing environment and is released into the ground water.

(d) 'Water' being a State subject, necessary action to protect local people from arsenic is to be taken by the respective States. However, various steps being taken by the Union Government and the States in this regard are given below:—

West Bengal:

(i) In order to delineate arsenic free deeper aquifers, CGWB has undertaken ground water exploration in arsenic infested areas of West Bengal. Till February, 2007, 88 nos. of exploratory wells tapping different aquifers have been constructed in 32 blocks spreading over 7 arsenic infested districts. The successful exploratory wells have been handed over to the user agencies for their water supply schemes.

(ii) CGWB is also providing technical guidance for clearing of source for drinking water in arsenic affected areas in Source Finding Committee meeting for PHED, Government of West Bengal.

(iii) Mass Awareness Programme and Water Management Training Programme in different arsenic affected districts in West Bengal are being organized by CGWB to make aware the local people and for providing technical guidance.

(iv) To provide potable water to the people living in arsenic affected areas PHED, Government of West Bengal has taken up different Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term measures/schemes utilizing both groundwater and surface water.

Bihar:

(i) CGWB constructs heavy duty deep tube wells tapping arsenic free deeper aquifers up to 200 m depth below ground level and handover these tubewells free of cost to the state PHED for immediate supply of arsenic free water.

(ii) CGWB is conducting awareness camps in the Arsenic affected areas.

(iii) CGWB is conducting research to understand the origin and distribution of arsenic in ground water for adopting long term appropriate remedial measures.

Steps being taken by PHED, Government of Bihar:

(i) Testing of water samples and marking the affected structures as unsafe for drinking use.

(ii) Awareness Camps being organized for the masses in the affected areas.

(iii) Sanitary wells are being constructed in each of the affected village.

(iv) Construction of deep bore wells (upto 125m depth) fitted with hand pumps to tap the Arsenic free deeper aquifer.

(v) Multi village water supply scheme covering 39 villages of Barhara block of Bhojpur district.

(vi) Roof top rain water harvesting being promoted in the affected villages.

Uttar Pradesh:

CGWB is taking up exploratory drilling in arsenic infested area of Uttar Pradesh by deployment of its four drilling rigs identifying suitable aquifer. The exploratory wells tapping the deeper aquifer encountered in the above districts in the depth range of 180—435m. below ground level having arsenic concentration within permissible limit are to be handed over to U.P. Jal Nigam for their utilization.

In addition, the Union Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms. In order to provide focused attention to tackle water quality problems, Sub-Mission guidelines under ARWSP have been revised in February, 2006, wherein, 20% of ARWSP funds is retained at the Centre and released to States on need-basis.